ONTARIO HERITAGE TRUST

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Heritage Matters

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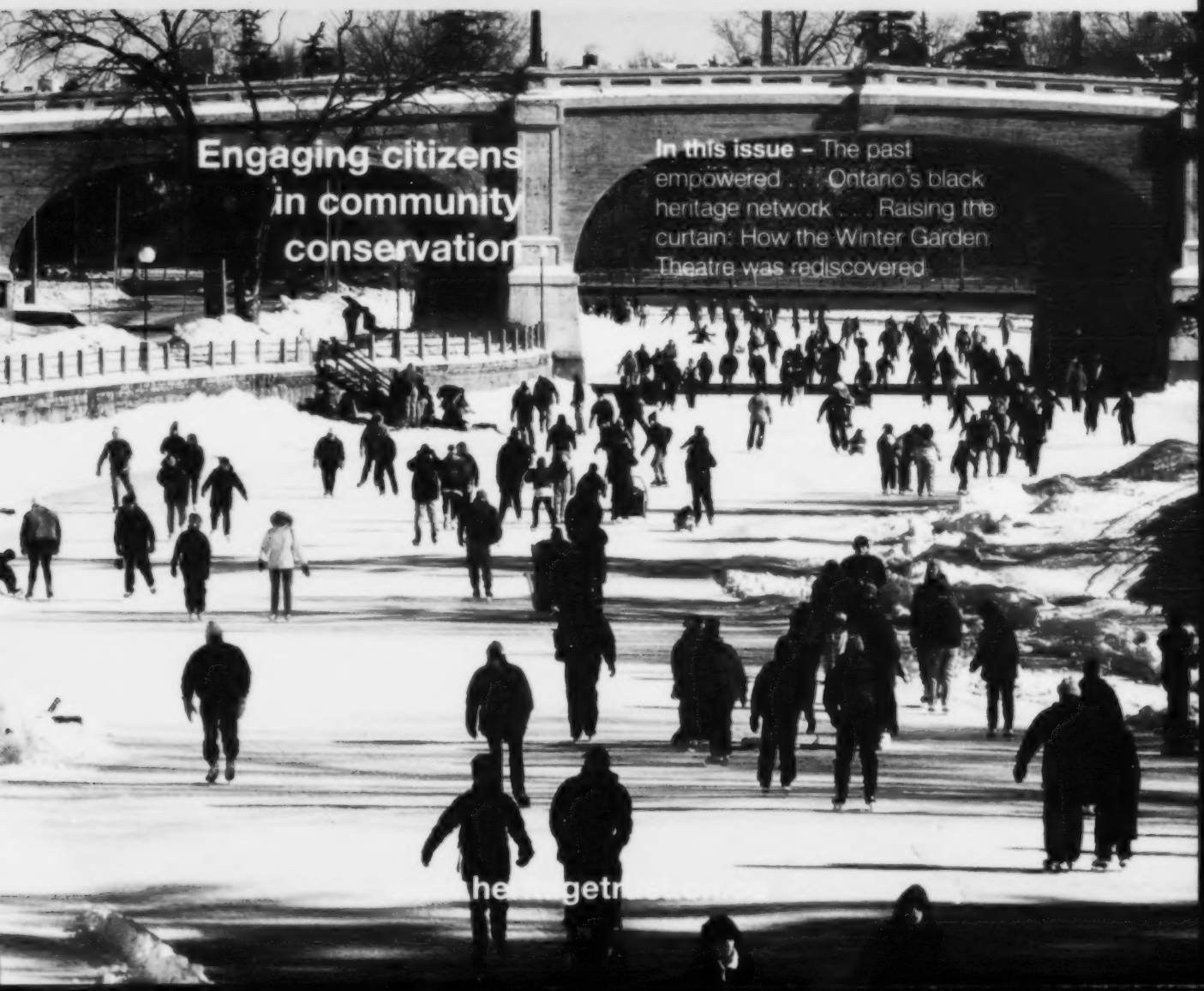

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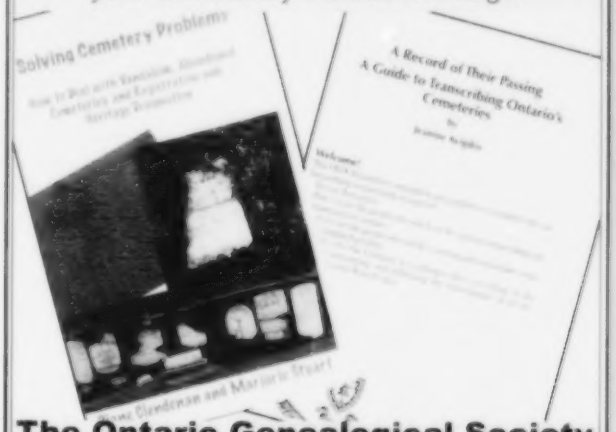

The Ontario Genealogical Society
Tel 416-489-0734 • Fax 416-489-9803
www.ogs.on.ca • provoffice@ogs.on.ca
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A message from The Honourable Lincoln M. Alexander, Chairman

Community conservation cannot be done by one person alone. Just as several voices blend to create a choir, several individuals can combine their efforts to make tremendous things happen. When we work together, the chances of improving our lives become greater. And when communities band together, we create a province that is better for all its citizens.

Through various programs – Doors Open Ontario, recognition programs, grants, owned sites, conservation easements, provincial plaques, local markers and workshops – the Trust engages citizens across the province. These activities – supported by a vast network of volunteers – have heightened the awareness of heritage and its inherent value in today's society.

Citizen advocacy groups are also becoming more organized. People are rallying successfully around heritage sites to preserve them for the future. Consequently, we are seeing more heritage buildings across Ontario being saved from demolition and adapted for new purposes in our communities.

The opportunities are endless. More people now than ever are becoming engaged in community conservation. Whether we join a historical society, support a land trust, hike one of Ontario's magnificent trails or volunteer at a local museum, there is something for everyone.

In this issue of *Heritage Matters*, we explore a broad spectrum of community conservation projects and concepts, and how we can engage citizens to become the engine for change. Together, our voices ring across Ontario. Through your efforts – individually and together – we can all make a difference to the future of heritage conservation.

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Cover photo: Ottawa's Rideau Canal – recently designated as a World Heritage Site – is enjoyed by people year-round. © Ontario Tourism 2008

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For information, contact:
Ontario Heritage Trust
10 Adelaide Street East, Suite 302
Toronto, Ontario
M5C 1J3
Telephone: 416-325-5015
Fax: 416-314-0744
E-mail: marketing@heritagetrust.on.ca
Website: www.heritagetrust.on.ca

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02/09

Ontario

The past empowered

By Sean Fraser

The buildings, structures and landscapes that comprise our cultural heritage are products of the intricate interplay between people and place over time. What is preserved and how this is achieved is a creature of community and opportunity.

This is especially true in Ontario. This province has a history, an economy, a physical landscape and settlement patterns that are as diverse as they are vast. Given the large, colourful and generally decentralized tapestry that is the cultural landscape of the province, it is not surprising that the legal and planning mechanisms developed to protect the province's built heritage took on a community-based structure in the early 1970s.

The Ontario Heritage Act (OHA) – introduced in 1975 and substantially amended in 2005 – enabled grassroots conservation. Rather than a top-down system that might implement decisions of senior government or impose the judgment of academics and experts, the *Act* relies on the simple democratic premise that citizens, using a transparent and public process, are best able to identify the locally significant cultural resources in their own communities.

Fort York, Toronto © Ontario Tourism 2008

This simple idea of community involvement relies on three factors that cannot be legislated – awareness, interest and investment. If these factors are necessary for the *OHA* to achieve full efficacy, then how is this achieved and by whom? More significantly, what happens in a community if no one steps forward to volunteer, or if the community is collectively unaware of its heritage or the tools available to protect it? The actions of individuals – advocates, volunteers, professionals, donors, etc. – heritage organizations and local residents have the potential to awaken a community to its heritage and, as the following examples demonstrate, all three are important to heritage conservation in Ontario.

Almost since it was constructed in 1793, Fort York has been under attack, first by the Americans in the War of 1812 and later by industry, commercial interests and various levels of government. In the late 1950s, planners and politicians in Toronto, the media and the province stated their intent to relocate Fort York National Historic Site to the edge of Lake Ontario to make way for the Gardiner Expressway. Provincial historical societies and the Toronto Civic Historical Committee (later the Toronto Historical Board), supported by volunteers and advocates, argued for the preservation of the Fort *in situ*. For more than a year, the debate raged until finally conservation, economics and reason prevailed. The Gardiner was re-routed around the Fort and the site was saved. This successful preservation against almost insurmountable opposition remains one of Ontario's most inspirational stories of community advocacy.

In 1972, an individual donated funds to the Ontario Heritage Trust for the acquisition of McMartin House – a National Historic Site built in 1830. This major Perth landmark has been restored and is operated in partnership with the Town. Two years later, another individual was inspired to donate the historic Inge-Va (also in Perth) to the Trust, ensuring its long-term preservation. Countless other individuals – whether donors or advocates, heritage professionals or volunteers – have made contributions of property, funds, time and talent in the name of conservation in Ontario.

In the early 1970s, the City of Stratford was at a critical juncture in its development. It was proposed to replace the historic Town Hall with a 100-unit modern concrete apartment block and a shopping mall. Luckily, the late-Victorian landmark was saved by a citizens group. The building was renovated in 1974 and remains in municipal use today – recognized by all three levels of government for its heritage significance. The leadership shown by the citizens and the municipality was a catalyst for community conservation.

In the years that followed, property owners reused the Victorian commercial blocks rather than replace them. The municipal heritage advisory committee found city council support for a range of research, designation and commemoration activities. Building on the success and growth of the Stratford Shakespeare Festival, cultural tourism grew exponentially. Today, Stratford boasts a remarkable heritage infrastructure that includes local heritage awards, a heritage conservation district, walking tours, a Doors Open Ontario festival and one of the most picturesque riverfronts in Ontario.

In Ontario, heritage conservation is a community-based activity supported by the tireless efforts of heritage organizations, politicians and citizens. It is important to understand that, on its own, the *OHA* doesn't protect or preserve our heritage – it is only a tool. In reality, our heritage is preserved and protected, conserved and celebrated by the actions and efforts of individuals and the community for the benefit of everyone.

Sean Fraser is the Manager of Conservation Services at the Ontario Heritage Trust.

Stratford Town Hall, © Ontario Tourism 2008

McMartin House, Perth

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

By Beth Anne Mendes

Marie-Rose Turcot – Ottawa journalist, writer and folklorist – was a pioneer in collecting and publishing Franco-Ontarian folk tales. A provincial plaque was unveiled to her in 2005 to celebrate the contributions she made to Ontario's history

Committed individuals working at the community level are often catalysts for change. Their hard work, often as volunteers, has assisted in the preservation and protection of Ontario's heritage. Local museums, archival collections, parks and conservation areas are all examples of the wonderful legacy that has been left by these committed and tireless advocates for cultural, natural and built heritage.

Some of the individuals who have made significant heritage contributions to the province have been commemorated by provincial plaques. Examples include:

Janet Carnochan (1839-1926) was a teacher in Niagara-on-the-Lake who believed passionately that the rich history of the area should be safeguarded and promoted. Through her efforts, the Niagara Historical Society was formed in 1895. Under her leadership as Society president, historic landmarks such as Fort George and Navy Hall were preserved. Carnochan's most outstanding achievement was the construction of Memorial Hall in 1907 – the first structure in the province to serve as a museum. When she passed away, the Society had a membership of over 300, the museum collection comprised over 10,000 artifacts and documents, and a large body of historical research and writings by Carnochan on the Niagara area provided a strong foundation for the local heritage conservation movement and a fine example for other communities.

Jack Miner (1865-1944) spent just three months of his life in school, preferring to be outside studying the habits of wildlife. In 1904, Miner began the first waterfowl refuge management system when he founded the Jack Miner Bird Sanctuary, near Kingsville, for the conservation of migratory geese and wild ducks. In 1909, he pioneered the tagging of migrating waterfowl to track their movements. Early data from Miner's tagging project was instrumental in the establishment of the Migratory Bird Treaty (1916) between the United States and Canada. In 1943, he received the Order of the British Empire for his achievements in the promotion and practice of conservation.

R. Thomas Orr (1870-1957) served the community of Stratford for over 50 years as a member of its Parks Board and was a driving force behind the Stratford parks system. He successfully fought to save the riverfront from railway development and oversaw the transformation of former industrial areas into parkland. Orr founded the Stratford Historical Society in 1922 and helped establish the local library, the First World War memorial and the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority. Through Orr's inspiration, the relationship between his town and the birthplace of William Shakespeare, Stratford-upon-Avon in England, was established. As a result, the Shakespearean Gardens were created providing the setting for the Stratford Shakespeare Festival in 1953.

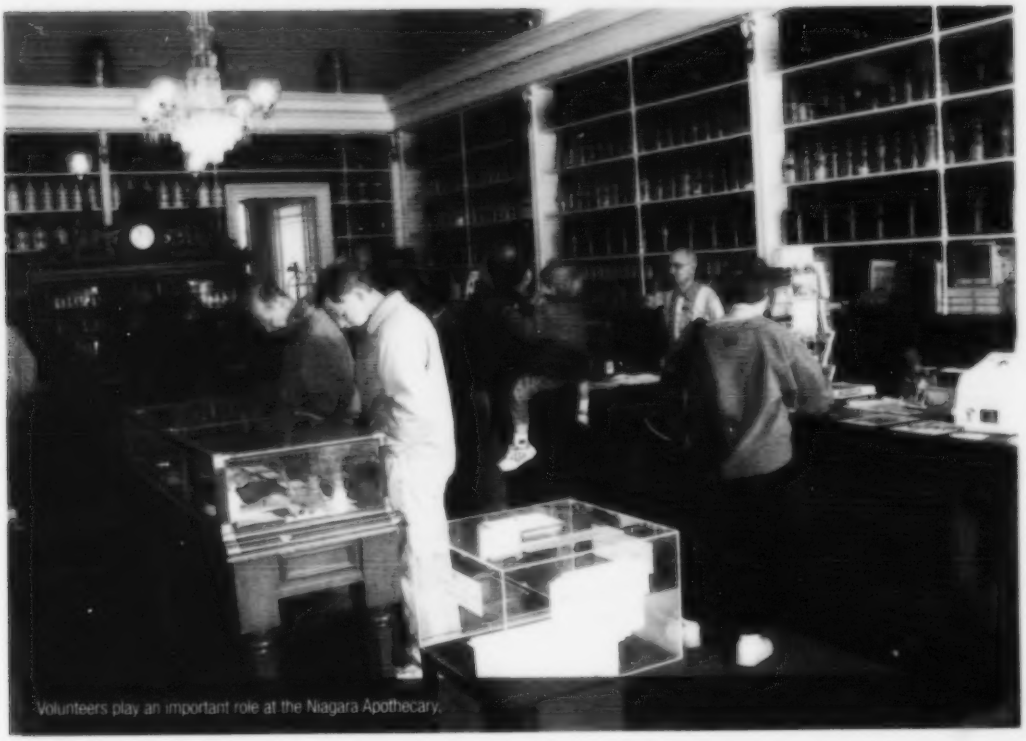
These are just a few of the many dedicated individuals who have made our province richer through their contributions to the identification, preservation and promotion of heritage.

Beth Anne Mendes is the Plaque Program Coordinator with the Ontario Heritage Trust.

For more information about these and other provincial plaques, visit the Trust's Online Plaque Guide at www.heritagetrust.on.ca, or purchase a copy of *A Guide to Provincial Plaques in Ontario* (call 416-325-5000 to order your copy today).

FRIENDS OF THE TRUST

By Kathryn Dixon



Volunteers play an important role at the Niagara Apothecary.

Throughout its 40 years, the Ontario Heritage Trust has developed strong partnerships with local communities. Among these partnerships are those with the groups whose efforts help support the work of the Trust. At many Trust museums and heritage sites across the province, dedicated and hard-working volunteers make important contributions.

In Niagara-on-the Lake, the Trust operates the Niagara Apothecary. Built in the late 1860s, this museum now welcomes approximately 100,000 visitors each year. For over 35 years, volunteers of the Ontario College of Pharmacists have shown how pharmacists practised their profession over 100 years ago. These retired pharmacists have invaluable knowledge that brings to life the character of a Victorian drug store.

At Fulford Place in Brockville, the Friends of Fulford Place Association – a group of community volunteers – has been an important part of the site's success since 1993. They welcome visitors to the magnificent Edwardian mansion overlooking the St. Lawrence River and offer guided tours. Special fundraising activities – such as the successful ghost walks (walking tours of haunted Brockville) and the annual Edwardian tea event – help raise funds to support conservation and educational work at Fulford Place.

Over the past decade, the Friends of Macdonell-Williamson House in East Hawkesbury has held special events and helped raise funds to restore windows and the Williamson parlour, re-point the exterior stonework and plant Georgian-era flowerbeds. The hard work of this organization has made the house a lively centre of heritage and cultural activities for the local community.

Elsewhere, the work of volunteers plays an equally important role in supporting the work of the Trust. Volunteers assist at the unique double-decker Elgin and Winter Garden Theatre Centre in Toronto – a vibrant live-performance venue and home to the largest collection of vaudeville scenery in the world. At Uncle Tom's Cabin Historic Site in Dresden, volunteers represent the community and support the Trust's work to interpret this complex and important historic site commemorating Reverend Josiah Henson, the Underground Railroad and Ontario's black history.

Many other Trust properties are operated by community organizations: Les Amis Duff-Bâby at Duff-Baby House in Windsor; the Town of Perth and its Management Board at Inge-Va in Perth; the Lake of the Woods Historical Society at Mather-Walls House in Kenora; and the John Graves Simcoe/Wolford Chapel Committee at Wolford Chapel in England.

Together, the Trust and Friends groups/operating partners keep Ontario's heritage alive and meaningful. The perseverance of dedicated volunteers across the province supports the Trust in its work to fulfil its mandate and ensure that these significant heritage resources are a vibrant part of the lives of future generations.

Kathryn Dixon is the Community Liaison with the Ontario Heritage Trust.

Counting our blessings

Built in Glengarry in 1821, St. Raphael's Church was one of Ontario's earliest Roman Catholic churches. Constructed under the supervision of Alexander Macdonell – Upper Canada's first bishop – the church was built to serve the large population of Scottish Catholics who settled there.

The church served the community until 1970, when it was destroyed by fire. Today, St. Raphael's Ruins is a local landmark and is seasonally operated as a historic site. The walls stand today not just because of its excellent craftsmanship, but also as a testament to the passionate community of volunteers and donors who care for the site.

After the fire, the Ruins were turned over to the Township of Charlottenburgh at the urging of the Ontario Heritage Trust. In 1973, the Trust granted the Township funds to cover the stabilization of the Ruins and the two organizations entered into an easement agreement on the property.

Under the stewardship of the Township, the walls were stabilized and the interior of the Ruins landscaped. The Ruins were soon used by arts groups for open-air performances. By 1993, however, the Ruins were at a critical point; falling stones made the site increasingly dangerous. The Township was unable to fund repairs and maintain the property, and considered giving up their ownership or demolishing the property entirely (not allowed under the terms of the easement agreement).

Wanting to see the Ruins maintained, a group of parishioners and interested citizens formed the Friends of the Ruins of St. Raphael's and discussed taking on ownership and responsibility for the property themselves. To address the significant costs of stabilizing the Ruins, the group required a fundraising strategy.

In 1994, the Friends bought the property from the Township for a dollar. While they were eager to re-open the site to the public, they needed time to raise funds and explore options for the site. They embarked on a phased fundraising campaign that realized donations from private donors and government grant programs. In order to raise additional funds, the Friends organized a popular golf tournament, hosted various concerts on the site and sold merchandise bearing the St Raphael's logo.

The hard work paid off. In 1999, the Friends were successful in stabilizing much of the building. This was also the year that the Ruins were designated as a National Historic Site. In 2004, nearly 1,000 people packed the site to participate in a mass commemorating the 200th anniversary of Bishop Macdonell's arrival at St. Raphael's.

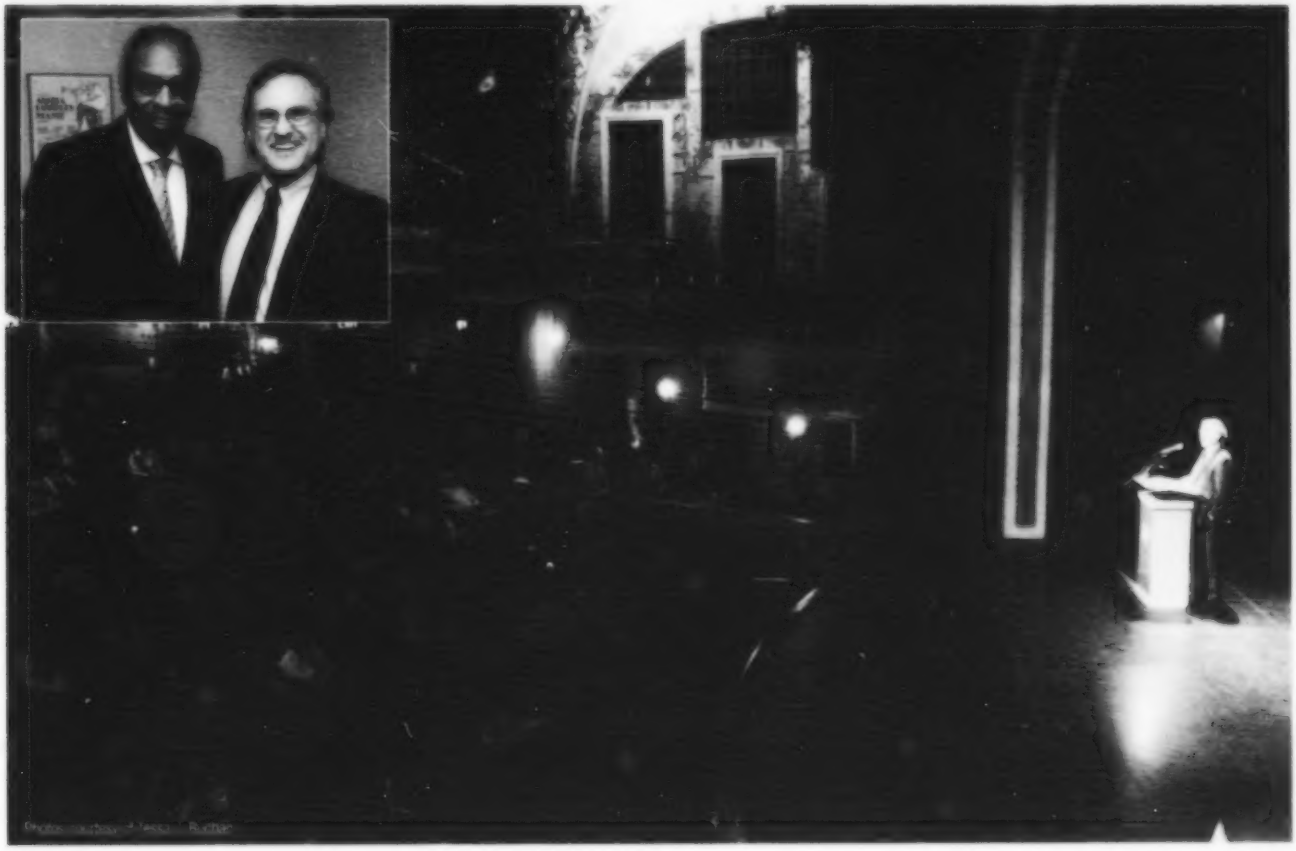
In 2005, the Friends finished the restoration of the exterior of the Ruins, though they continue to raise funds for regular maintenance of the site. As a gesture of their gratitude, the Friends erected a sign near the site to thank its patrons for their generosity.

Learn more in a Discussion with the Ontario Heritage Trust.

For more information about St. Raphael's Ruins and how you can contribute to its ongoing maintenance, visit www.saintraphaelsruins.com.

An evening with Stephen Lewis

By Catrina Colme



On January 21, at a fundraising event hosted by the Ontario Heritage Trust, Stephen Lewis shared his thoughts on the topic "Tomorrow's Past Matters: Investing in Heritage and Enriching Democracy."

As one of Canada's most respected commentators on social affairs, international development and human rights, Lewis attracted an audience of 500 people to the Winter Garden Theatre in downtown Toronto.

A video produced by the Trust opened the evening and introduced two central themes that would recur throughout the night: the need for a culture of conservation and the importance of engaging citizens in the process.

Lewis wove these themes into his remarks with personal anecdotes and international examples. Beginning on the subject of the environment, he talked about the extreme changes occurring in our natural and urban landscapes, leading him to describe involvement in heritage conservation as a "moral imperative." He talked about measures helping to protect heritage, citing the 1972 UNESCO Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage. Later, he tied in the amendment to the *Ontario Heritage Act* in 2005 – which gave the Ontario Heritage Trust a significant advisory role to the Minister of Culture for the provincial designation of cultural heritage sites – as another indication of movement in the right direction.

A captivating speaker, Lewis brought wit and a masterful use of language to the stage. He passionately described the value that heritage adds to society and reiterated the need for citizen support – a message that served as an effective call to action.

After his speech, the audience was invited to stay for a dessert reception hosted by the Trust. Amid plates of cheesecake, crème brûlée and other sweets, audience members mingled and discussed heritage issues.

Among the distinguished guests for the evening were The Honourable Aileen Carroll, Minister of Culture, and The Honourable Lincoln M. Alexander, Chairman of the Trust, both of whom spoke earlier in the program. The day also marked the Chairman's 86th birthday, making it a doubly special occasion.

This event was a fundraiser for the Lincoln M. Alexander Legacy Fund, established to support the work of the Trust, including the protection of significant natural heritage sites, community outreach and volunteer recognition. If you wish to make a donation to the Legacy Fund, write "LMA Legacy Fund" on the form attached to the business reply envelope in this magazine and return it to the Trust. Your donation will help to protect our rich and diverse heritage for the benefit of future generations and pay tribute to a remarkable man.

Catrina Colme is a Marketing and Communications Coordinator for the Ontario Heritage Trust.

Ontario's black heritage network

By Steven Cook

In 2007, the Ontario Heritage Trust undertook a number of initiatives, with funding support from the Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration, to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the abolition of the trans-Atlantic slave trade. One of these initiatives is a website to promote and coordinate Ontario's black heritage sites and groups. The website will focus on Ontario's Underground Railroad and our rich black history.

The Underground Railroad was neither a railroad, nor was it underground. It was the name given to the network of sympathetic abolitionists who hid and guided slaves and refugees as they followed the north star to freedom in the northern United States or to Canada. Today, a number of buildings, cemeteries, churches and historic sites exist as a testament to the bravery, determination and spirit of these freedom seekers and others who followed in their footsteps to build a strong and vibrant black community in Ontario.

The Windsor Tower of Freedom monument honors the harrowing journey made by thousands in search of freedom and pays tribute to Ontario's role in the Underground Railroad.

The website will highlight black history sites and community partners from across the province to share their stories and educate visitors about the African-Canadian experience. The website will also encourage both educational and tourism opportunities for web visitors, with input from community partners, tour operators, educators and black heritage organizations.

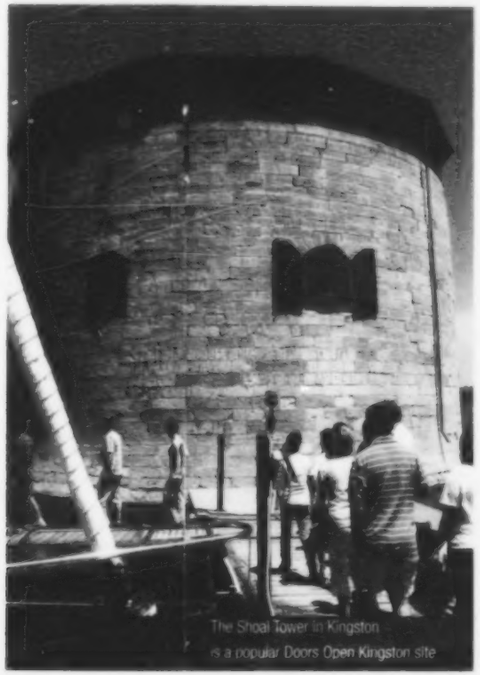
The partners of Ontario's black heritage network will be the driving force in developing content for the website. Partners will have the ability to update information on news and events occurring at their sites. The website's interactive timeline will allow visitors to explore significant people, places and events in black history through maps, narrative, photographs and music.

This website showcasing Ontario's Underground Railroad and black heritage sites and groups will be a meaningful and lasting step in promoting education and tourism related to Ontario's black heritage.

Steven Cook is the Site Manager of Uncle Tom's Cabin Historic Site in Dresden.

Opening doors of opportunity

By Michael Sawchuck



The Shoal Tower in Kingston is a popular Doors Open Kingston site

The Ontario Heritage Trust launched Doors Open Ontario in 2002 to create access to, awareness of and excitement about the province's heritage. Since then, the program has enjoyed tremendous success, having generated nearly 2.5 million visits to participating sites. The program has also been a powerful catalyst for heritage conservation, motivating communities to re-evaluate and protect their important heritage landmarks, educating the public about the value of heritage, inspiring citizens to take active roles through volunteerism and engaging them in local conservation projects.

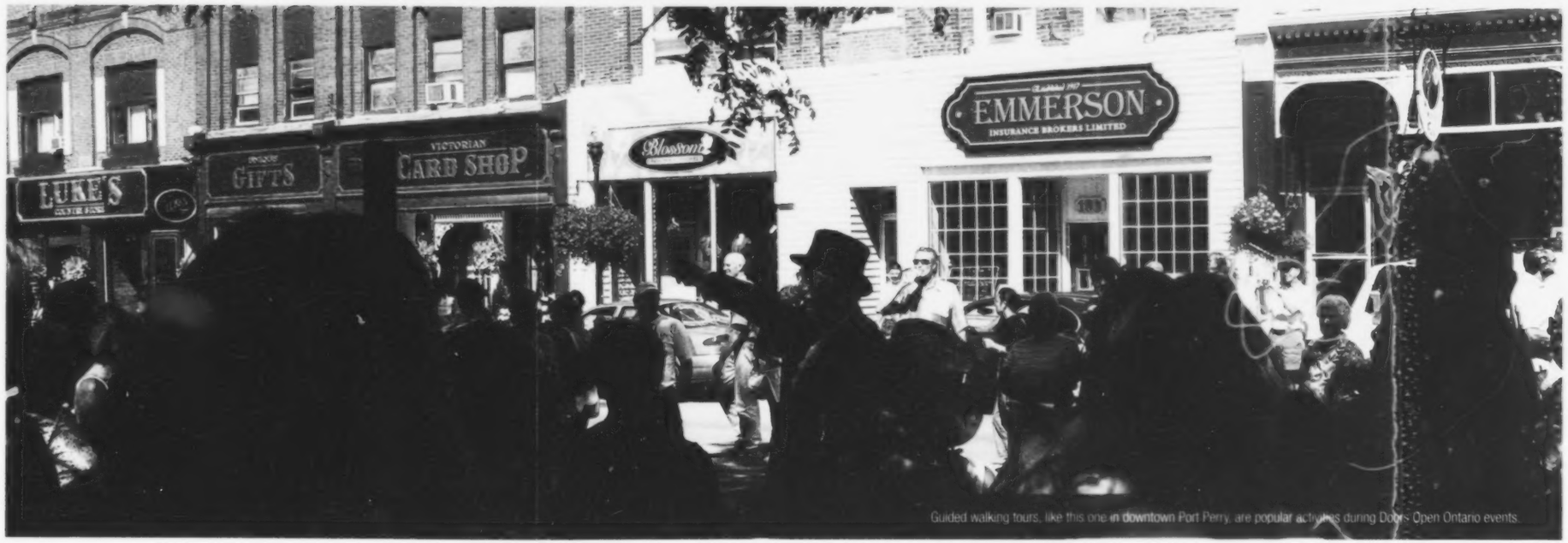
Every year, from April through October, Doors Open Ontario offers visitors a unique glimpse into heritage sites through a series of community-based events held across the province. From town halls and train stations to courthouses and conservation areas, Doors Open Ontario provides access to all types of heritage sites in communities big and small – all free of charge! Doors Open Ontario offers visitors a fun and unique way to experience these heritage sites – many of which are not usually open to the public – through tours, demonstrations and exhibits. Local volunteers, too, play a significant role in opening these doors to the public – and in encouraging a community spirit for our province's heritage. In 2007, the Trust conducted an economic impact survey and discovered that over 7,500 volunteers participated in Doors Open Ontario events across the province.

Now entering its seventh year, Doors Open Ontario 2008 will be the program's most extensive season yet, featuring 54 events in communities reaching all corners of the province. Nine new events – Barrie, Brighton and Cramahe Township, Fergus, Gananoque, Loyalist Parkway, Norfolk County, Oakville, Oil Heritage District and Whitby – join this year's roster, as well as several themed events that will focus on some of the most interesting and intriguing facets of the province's history. And for the seventh year running, the heritage adventure reaches beyond the border with Doors Open Niagara, featuring sites in both Ontario and Western New York.

Explore the unknown treasures that await you in your community or take a road trip and discover what really goes on behind closed doors!

Michael Sawchuck is the Community Programs Officer for the Ontario Heritage Trust.

The Doors Open Ontario 2008 Guide will be available in April. Look for your copy in *The Globe and Mail* or call 1-800-ONTARIO (1-800-668-2746). Or e-mail the Trust at doorsopenontario@heritagetrust.on.ca to be put on our mailing list.



Guided walking tours, like this one in downtown Port Perry, are popular activities during Doors Open Ontario events.

Province welcomes new Culture Minister

By Liane Nowosielski

In a ceremony held at Queen's Park on October 30, 2007, The Honourable Aileen Carroll was sworn in as Ontario's new Minister of Culture. Representing the riding of Barrie, Carroll was elected to the Ontario legislature in 2007.

Carroll's political career began as a Barrie city councillor. She also served three federal terms as Barrie's Liberal MP. During her time in federal politics, she served as the Minister for International Cooperation, making her Barrie's first – and only – federal cabinet minister.

An active volunteer in her community, Carroll has chaired fundraising projects for the Barrie Public Library and St. Joseph's High School. She was honorary Chair for the Barrie United Way, a volunteer at Hospice Simcoe and a founding member of Barrie's Big Sister Association.

Carroll is a graduate of St. Mary's and York universities. She co-owned a manufacturing and retail business in Barrie for many years. She and her husband Kevin Carroll, QC, have two children.

The Ministry of Culture encourages the arts and cultural industries, protects Ontario's heritage and advances the public library system in order to maximize their contribution to the province's economic and social vitality. The Ontario Heritage Trust, an agency of the Ministry of Culture, plays a significant role in advising the Minister on the conservation, protection and preservation of Ontario's heritage.

The Trust wishes the Minister well in her new role.

Liane Nowosielski is a Marketing and Communications Specialist with the Ontario Heritage Trust. She joins the Trust as an intern with the Ontario Internship Program.

Enoch Turner Schoolhouse – a citizen's legacy

By Beth Hanna

When the province of Ontario introduced the 1847 *Common Schools Act*, municipalities were given the power to introduce taxes to fund public education. Toronto city officials refused to do so. In response, local brewer Enoch Turner built Toronto's first free school to provide education for the children in the neighbourhood of his brewery.

Little Trinity Church donated the land and, in 1848, the Schoolhouse was built – providing learning opportunities for 240 pupils. Enoch Turner was the sole provider of finances for the Schoolhouse for three years. In 1850, school trustees were elected by the public to oversee educational funding, and free public education officially began in Toronto in 1851.

Just as a concerned citizen stepped forward to build the Schoolhouse, so too have dedicated citizens ensured its preservation and ongoing use.

The Enoch Turner Schoolhouse Foundation was created in 1971 as a not-for-profit organization to operate this unique historic site. It has become a well-respected museum and a busy special-events venue. Over the years, the Foundation has raised funds, interpreted mid-19th-century education, operated public programs, worked with community organizations and conserved this architectural treasure.

A year ago, recognizing the provincial significance of the site and concerned for its long-term preservation, the Foundation approached the Ontario Heritage Trust about a new partnership. In 2008, the Trust will be assuming ownership of the Schoolhouse and responsibility for its operation and care. The Foundation will continue as an independent not-for-profit organization that will provide support to the site through fundraising and special events.

Beth Hanna is the Director of Heritage Programs and Operations with the Ontario Heritage Trust.

Oil on canvas

By Pamela Brooks

The landscape *Sunset in the Woods in Winter, Canada 1910* was painted by the renowned Quebec artist Marc-Aurèle de Foy Suzor-Coté RCA (1869-1937).

Born in Arthabaska, a small community between Montreal and Quebec City, Suzor-Coté began his art career as a church decorator. In 1891, he moved to Paris where he studied, worked and travelled for more than 13 years, becoming acquainted with the artistic styles of the period and incorporating them in his art. Finding success in Paris and Canada, Suzor-Coté won a bronze medal at the prestigious *Exposition universelle de Paris* in 1900. In Canada, his career was helped considerably by one of his most influential patrons – Prime Minister Sir Wilfrid Laurier – from whom he received numerous commissions.

In 1907, Suzor-Coté returned to Quebec and focused on painting landscapes in and around his hometown. His interest in capturing the play of light on the landscape at different times of the day and in different seasons is witnessed in works such as *Sunset in the Woods in Winter, Canada 1910*. Although the work was painted in the Impressionist style, the milieu, space and light are identifiably Canadian. A background of late-afternoon sunlight illuminates a dark forest of deciduous and evergreen trees fronted by blue shadows on a blanket of snow. Suzor-Coté shared a desire with a generation of artists, including the Group of Seven, to create a truly Canadian style of art.

This painting will be featured in an exhibition of selected works from the Fulford family art collection on display at Fulford Place from May 24, 2008 to spring 2009. The works have been recently conserved thanks to a generous donation from the Ross W. McNeil Foundation, Brockville. Guided tours and other special programs will complement this exhibition.

Pamela Brooks is the Site Manager of Fulford Place.

The Country Connection

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HAVE YOU SEEN THIS BUILDING?

By Sean Fraser

In November 2007, the Sir Aemilius Irving House in Hamilton was demolished by its owner to make way for a new building. Unfortunately, local heritage advocates were unable to convince the owner to alter plans – or the municipality to intervene – to prevent the destruction of this unique and significant 150-year-old stone building. The loss was unfortunate and contrary to the principles of sustainability and architectural conservation. Surprisingly, this is not an isolated or rare occurrence.

The media, most property owners and the general public assume that all heritage properties have already been identified and are protected. Unfortunately, this is far from true. New heritage properties are discovered in Ontario almost every day, and usually only after they have become threatened. Some municipal heritage inventories have existed since the 1970s; these lists, however, are not comprehensive. They are lists of opportunity, influenced by the authors, the age, methodology of the survey and available resources. Most often, a threatened property has simply never been evaluated for its heritage value.

The Sir Aemilius Irving House, Hamilton.

So, what can Ontario's citizens do to prevent the loss of heritage properties?

- **Identification** – encourage your municipality to maintain a municipal register that includes both designated and non-designated properties
- **Protection** – seek the protection of heritage properties through *Ontario Heritage Act* designation before they are threatened
- **Preparation** – assemble a well-documented, logical argument for the heritage significance, preservation and adaptive re-use of the property in question
- **Professionalism** – behave courteously, communicate clearly and state your case in writing
- **Networking** – seek the assistance and advice of heritage organizations at the local, provincial and national levels
- **Awareness** – understand the unique heritage planning infrastructure in your community and engage in current events and issues
- **Communication** – engage in a dialogue with municipal staff, your Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee, various non-governmental organizations, owners, neighbours and ratepayers
- **Presentation** – engage the media and ensure that they receive accurate and timely information, and that you communicate your key messages
- **Advocacy** – communicate with your municipal councillors both in writing and in person; make the conservation solution the norm in decision-making in your municipality

The support of your municipal council is the most important factor in the preservation of any heritage property. Municipalities, through powers granted under the *Ontario Heritage Act* and the Provincial Policy Statement of the *Planning Act*

possess the tools necessary to identify, designate and prevent the demolition of a property that they determine has cultural heritage value. Moreover, these pow can be legally utilized with or without consent of the owner. The means by wh a municipality can protect its heritage are outlined in the Ministry of Cultur Heritage Toolkit – www.culture.gov.on.ca/english/heritage/Toolkit/toolkit.htm.

When we lose a cultural heritage property, we lose it forever. In our globaliz modern world, today's architecture and planning tend to blur local identity a sense of place. Ontario's heritage, built up incrementally over time, has crea thousands of diverse, interesting and unique communities. It is our responsibilit enhance – rather than destroy – this non-renewable legacy.

Sean Fraser is the Manager of Conservation Services at the Ontario Heritage Trust.

RAISING THE CURTAIN: HOW THE WINTER GARDEN THEATRE WAS REDISCOVERED

By Gordon Pim

In December 1913, Loew's Yonge Street Theatre – the Canadian flagship of the mighty Loew's empire – opened in Toronto. Two months later, the opulent Winter Garden Theatre opened upstairs. Between them, Toronto played host to dozens of vaudeville acts, including George Burns, Sophie Tucker and Edgar Bergen.

By 1930, talking pictures had eclipsed vaudeville and the lower theatre was wired for sound. The Winter Garden closed in 1928 and was abandoned completely for nearly 60 years. The lower theatre (renamed the Elgin Theatre in

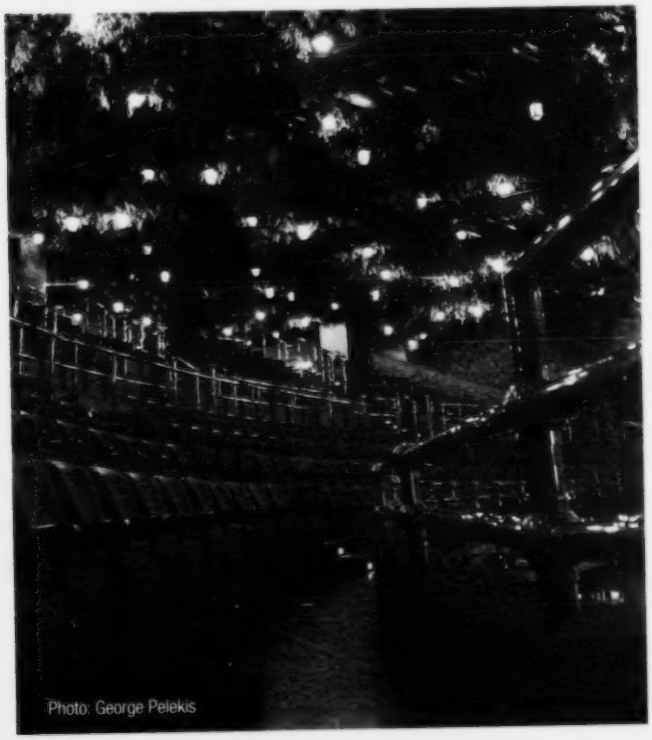


Photo: George Pelekis

1978) remained in continuous operation until 1981, when the Ontario Heritage Trust saved the building from demolition. Over the years, the Elgin Theatre had undergone several renovations before falling into disrepair. Many of its original elements were lost – including the opera boxes and proscenium arch. But extensive restoration work replaced and recovered these lost features.

When the Trust reopened the doors to the Winter Garden Theatre, it was like opening the lid of a time capsule. Unlike its counterpart downstairs, the Winter Garden retained many of its original design features, including the canopy of leaves and flower blossoms and its hand-painted walls. Unfortunately, layers of soot covered everything, creating challenges for conservation experts.

One of the Winter Garden's unique original features is its hand-painted water-soluble floral wall designs. How to remove the layers of soot and dust that obscured these delicate designs – without removing the paint itself – was a challenge. A unique conservation technique, often used to clean paper, was applied to the walls. Small balls of raw bread dough – 1,500 pounds in total – were rolled over the soot-covered walls to lift the dirt and clean the surfaces without removing the delicate painted murals beneath. The original walls were restored to their original brilliance and then sprayed with a protective sealant. (Each summer, the Trust recreates this activity with children during the popular Kidsummer event.)

Preserving the garden canopy was another matter entirely. As most of the branches were too brittle to restore, an entirely new canopy had to be manufactured. Five thousand branches of beech leaves were carefully harvested, preserved, painted, fire-proofed and suspended from the Winter Garden ceiling.

In addition, the original Winter Garden seats – removed and sold during the 1950s – were replaced by the original seats from Chicago's Biograph Theatre, famous as the scene of gangster John Dillinger's dramatic death in 1934 at the hands of the FBI.

Since the Winter Garden Theatre reopened in 1989, the theatre has played host to world-renowned performers and theatrical productions. In 2007, the Toronto International Film Festival also began screening several acclaimed films here.

A dedicated group of volunteers has remained active since the restoration of the Elgin and Winter Garden Theatre Centre – a National Historic Site and the world's last operating double-decker theatre. Today, volunteers assist the Trust with guided tours and fundraising. With their invaluable support, the Trust is able to showcase this magnificent theatre complex to the world.

One of the Winter Garden's greatest treasures, discovered backstage during the restoration, is the world's largest collection of vaudeville scenery – hand-painted flats and drops dating from 1913. Three restored pieces, including the magnificent Butterfly and Scarab Scenery Flats, are on display at the Theatre Centre.

For more information about the Elgin and Winter Garden Theatre Centre – including public tours – visit www.heritagetrust.on.ca.

Gordon Pim is a Marketing and Communications Coordinator with the Ontario Heritage Trust and Editor of Heritage Matters.

GRASSROOTS CONSERVATION

By Tony Buszynski

As the century progresses, there is an increasing sense of urgency about the need to preserve our precious natural heritage. Recent publicized discussions of global warming and greenhouse gas emissions, concerns about water and air quality, rising energy costs and expanding urbanization have created a heightened belief that something must be done.

Protecting areas of significant natural heritage is one way to address these daunting environmental issues.

Spicebush Swallowtail butterfly, Backus Woods Conservation Area

Anyone can help with this pursuit. Many landowners have already taken direct action. For example, if source water areas are protected from contamination, it stands to reason that human health benefits and costs associated with water treatment will lessen. Trails across natural heritage lands enable increased hiking opportunities and exercise, which contribute to better, longer and more active lifestyles. Trees are beneficial for air and environmental quality; planting trees is an environmentally friendly response. Many people work to steward their lands to decrease the impact their footprint makes on our natural surroundings.

The donation of natural heritage lands to conservation organizations has been actively occurring for over 40 years. Some people do so for recognition and some seek personal tax benefits, while others do it to ensure stewardship of the land. Recently, the Ontario Heritage Trust received a donation of a 40-hectare (100-acre) natural heritage property in the Lake of Bays area. The landowner, with a strong connection to his land, wanted to ensure that it was forever maintained in a natural state, as a sanctuary.

This particular donation created a multi-party partnership. The Trust holds property title with a local land conservancy being the property steward; the original landowner can visit at his pleasure. Through the federal government's Ecological Gifts Program, the landowner received a tax receipt for this charitable donation. Adjoining landowners also benefit fr knowing that the donated lands will not be develop

In cases where land has passed from one generat to another, landowners may want to see their child inherit to continue the family tradition. At the sa time, the older generation may wish that the land mains in a natural state and not be developed for co mercial purposes. To deal with these potentially hea wrenching situations, many people are consider conservation easement agreements. With a herita conservation easement agreement registered on property's title, the wishes of one generation can be realized, while the next generation still has the choice whether or not to retain the land.

The Trust is working with a family in eastern Ontario to honour their parents' wishes for the protection of their lands through the donation of a natural heritage conservation easement agreement. If the property were to be sold without the protection of a conservation easement – given the proximity of the property to an urban area – it is conceivable that the land could be subdivided and developed for cottages. If the placement of a conservation easement is successful, the Trust will w with the local land conservancy to ensure the protect of the property. The landowners may also receive a receipt for the donation of this conservation easeme

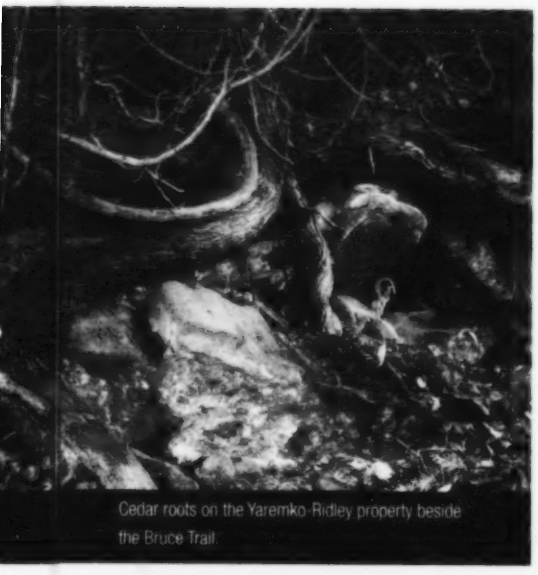
Cash donations from individuals, families companies to conservation organizations also h with the securement and protection of nat heritage lands. For example, in 2007 the T worked with the Lake Simcoe Region Conserva Authority and the Nature Conservancy of Canad securing land within the Beaver River Wetland. F per cent of the funds for these projects came fro family bequest, honouring a military member of family who was lost in action. Donations of cash, l and conservation easements are only a few of ways that landowners are working with conserva organizations to protect natural heritage.

Tony Buszynski is the Acting Team Leader, Natural Heritage with the Ontario Heritage Trust.

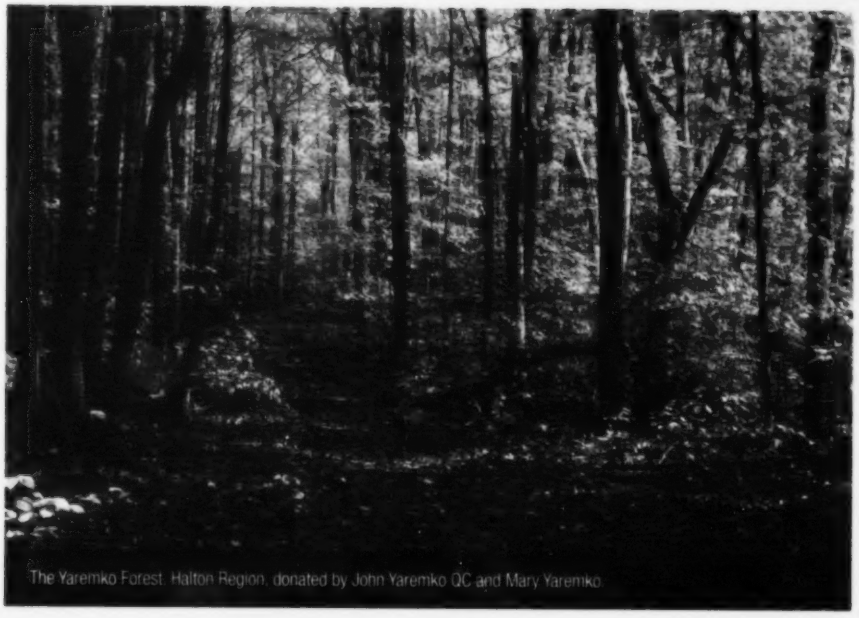
Almost 50 stewardship councils now exist in Ontario, composed of landowners associated with municipalities, conservation organizations, cottage groups, farming and other industry organizations. With some support from the provincial government and organized conservation organizations, stewardship councils are sponsoring natural heritage stewardship projects across southern Ontario. Landowners are actively engaged with the preparation of property stewardship plans that integrate natural heritage stewardship thinking into the planning for all types of properties. Projects such as erosion control, tree planting and wildlife habitat enhancement are underway on private land, providing conservation benefits beyond individual property boundaries.

Today, the passion to secure and steward natural heritage lands for conservation purposes is growing. So, too, is our understanding that everyone has a role to play in protecting the environment for future generations.

The Ontario Heritage Trust has played an active role in natural heritage protection since 1967. It currently has a portfolio of 154 natural heritage properties and 17 natural heritage easement properties, which secure about 6,000 hectares (14,826 acres) of significant natural heritage sites.



Cedar roots on the Yaremko-Ridley property beside the Bruce Trail.



The Yaremko Forest, Halton Region, donated by John Yaremko QC and Mary Yaremko.

The marl ponds of the Yaremko-Ridley property, Halton Region donated by John Yaremko and John Ridley.

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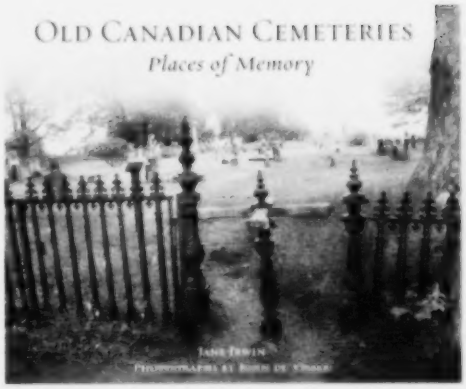


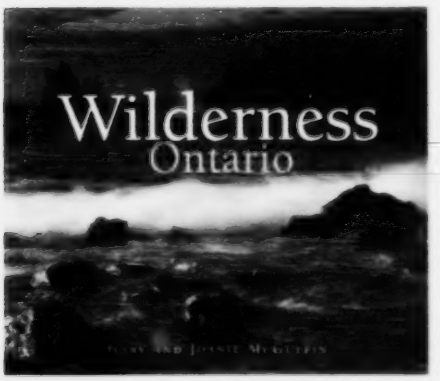
Old Canadian Cemeteries: Places of Memory, by Jane Irwin with photographs by John de Visser (2007))

Firefly Books. Canada abounds in historical burial places. Once you begin noticing their presence, old cemeteries seem to be everywhere. But these important links to the past are in danger of disappearing forever. The expansion of cities and roadways reclaim valuable land, and inscriptions are worn away by weather and time. Older cemeteries may be important records of immigration, settlement, armed forces, epidemics, class and religious schisms, and upward mobility of ethnic groups.

In *Old Canadian Cemeteries*, Jane Irwin invites the reader on a visual tour of historic cemeteries across Canada, examining such diverse topics as:

- Burial traditions, including customs from Catholic, Protestant, Jewish, Ukrainian, Quaker, Pioneer, Acadian, Chinese, Japanese, Inuit, First Nations and African-American cemeteries
- War memorials
- Graveyard symbols and motifs, and their meanings
- Materials used in cemeteries – stone, wood, bronze and cast iron
- Historic graveyard conservation.

Old Canadian Cemeteries is a must for anyone interested in Canadian history.



Wilderness Ontario: by Gary and Joanie McGuffin (2007)

Boston Mills Press. A stunning celebration of Ontario's vast and diverse wilderness. Ontario is wild. The province's more than 12 million people live in densely populated urban centres, but Ontario is larger than France and Spain combined. Over a quarter of a million lakes hold one third of the world's fresh water. No matter where you go in Ontario, you are never far from wilderness. Nobody knows this better than veteran adventurers Gary and Joanie McGuffin.

The McGuffins' Ontario is full of favorite places: rock promontory campsites where the swimming is perfect, lakes where loons and eagles nest, cliffs where peregrine falcons soar, ancient forests where only the sounds of nature are heard. Here, one can paddle whitewater rivers, sea kayak to distant granite islands, hike mountainous trails, and snowshoe the fresh forest trails left by foraging moose and wolves.

The diverse, wild beauty of Ontario is celebrated in this breathtaking collection of images taken during two decades of travel to every corner of the province.

Concrete Toronto, edited by Michael McClelland and Graeme Stewart (2007)

Coach House Books. Toronto is a concrete city. Looking at its international landmarks, civic buildings, cultural institutions, metropolitan infrastructure and housing . . . it is clear that much of Toronto was born of an era when exposed concrete design was the order of the day.

Underappreciated and misunderstood, the more than 50 concrete projects considered here represent an exciting era of cultural investment and design innovation. A product of Canada coming into its own culturally, economically and artistically, Toronto's modern concrete heritage is a testament to Canadian optimism and nation-building following the Second World War.

Concrete Toronto brings together the perspectives of a diverse group of experts who re-examine and explore these buildings. You will find the insights of many of the original architects, local practitioners from some of Toronto's leading architecture and engineering firms, city planners, university faculty and students, historians and journalists. Together they explore, with new and archival photos, drawings, interviews, articles and case studies, the past and future of our concrete buildings and the role of concrete as a material in their conception.

Eglinton West subway station, Toronto.
Photo: Derek Wueschirs

COMMUNITY CONSERVATION: INGREDIENTS FOR SUCCESS

By David Tremblay

SOS-Églises at work. David Tremblay leads the discussion while Jérôme Baillargeon helps with the notes.

For the past seven years, a group called SOS-Églises has led the fight to preserve two century-old village churches in Essex County. Located in Pointe-aux-Roches (Stoney Point) and St-Joachim – French-Canadian villages in southwestern Ontario – the two buildings have become cultural anchors for the communities.

From our experience, we have identified some of the ingredients that can make the task of conserving architectural heritage easier for individuals in a community.

The first ingredient is the presence in the community of a strong feeling of attachment to local architecture. Church buildings – especially village churches – are ideal candidates for community support because nearly every citizen has a personal connection to them.

Other ingredients include:

- **The willingness of one or two individuals to step forward and light the fuse.** In our situation, the first persons to stand up and protest were St-Joachim people who formed a demolition resistance movement. Other people from Pointe-aux-Roches joined in and the movement soon gathered momentum.

- **Strong leadership.** SOS-Églises was placed under the leadership of someone with political experience at the municipal level.

- **Information about the heritage value of the buildings to be preserved.** Knowledge of policies and regulations concerning heritage conservation is a must.

- **A common goal.** There are numerous reasons why people would object to the destruction of their village church: personal reasons, business reasons and cultural reasons. We focused on a single purpose around which everyone rallied – the buildings simply must not be demolished.

- **Media coverage.** The only lever of power available to individual citizens is the power of public opinion obtained through media coverage. For the media to cover a cause, the cause must have some level of public appeal. It must be more than a difference of opinion between two groups in a parish.

- **Common-sense positions.** You are also less likely to be acknowledged by endorsing long-term claims that appear to be irrational. Care must be taken not to frighten curious onlookers who are potential supporters by making what appears to them to be exaggerated claims.

- **Respect for your rivals.** The eventual support of the whole community may be necessary to achieve your objective over the years.

- **Acceptance of the "wear factor."** If the struggle carries over a number of years, some of the supporters will lose the will to continue and will wander off. Ensure that their contribution continues to be appreciated.

- **Support of the larger community, especially heritage protection agencies.** Their public support helps confirm the validity of the conservation claims.

Finding a second life for two large structures located a few kilometres apart in a rural setting is a daunting challenge. But if Ontario's rural architectural heritage is to be given the same protection as urban sites, it is a challenge that must be met.

David Tremblay is a secondary school teacher at École secondaire l'Essor in Tecumseh. He has served as a municipal councillor, deputy warden, deputy reeve and mayor. He has led SOS-Églises since 2001.

For more information about the work of SOS-Églises, visit www.soseglises.com

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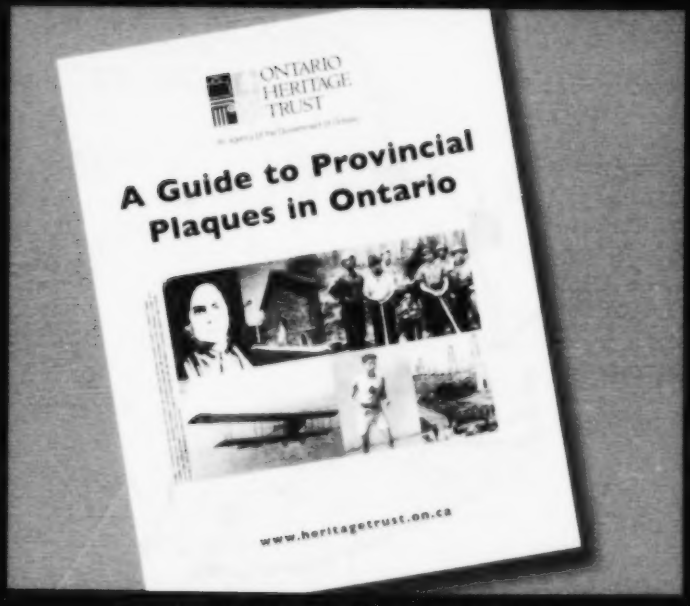

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